NEWS

Select Board approves tax abatement reqs.

TARA HUGHES | STAFF WRITER

December 13, 2023 . 6:26 PM — 1 min read

Phillip Beltz, Director of the Council on Aging, appeared before the Select Board

By Tara Hughes Dec, 13, 2023

Phillip Beltz, Director of the Council on Aging, appeared before t
Board on Monday night requesting an increase in both the income and

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assessed property value guidelines for the 2024 Senior Citizen Community Service Reimbursement Program administered by the Council on Aging. Both requests were approved unanimously by the Board.

The program allows seniors over 60 to work 125 hours a year within town dedicated sites such as in the schools, library or town hall to earn a property tax abatement of $1500 provided they meet certain adjusted gross income and owned property valuation guidelines. Fewer seniors have qualified to participate due to increased property tax assessments as well as increases in household gross income due to things like cost-of-living allowance (COLA) increases for Social Security.

In 2023, only ten residents completed the program and none of those existing participants would qualify in 2024 due to increased property assessment. The goal is to allow participants to continue in the program as well as encourage others to apply. Therefore, a request was made to increase both income and assessed property value guidelines for 2024. The requested income increase is to reflect the COLA increase in Social Security in December 2023 of 3.2%.

The income guidelines will go from a maximum adjusted gross income of $64,000 for a single senior and $97,000 for a couple in 2023 to $66,050 for a single senior and $100,105 for a couple in 2024. The assessed property value will increase from not to exceed $1,162,350 in 2023 to not to exceed $1,350,000 in 2024.

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Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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March 4, 2026

NEWS

Rep. Michael Day helps House colleagues pass sweeping energy affordability bill

The following was submitted by the Office of Rep. Michael S. Day: Rep. Michael S. Day and his colleagues in the House of Representatives recently passed energy affordability legislation that would result in over $9 billion in savings for utility ratepayers over the next 10 years. The bill maintains critical

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Winchester gun owners face new training rules starting April 2

Public safety data How Winchester compares on firearms licenses in comparable Massachusetts communities Active licenses

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Sen. Jason Lewis, Mass. Senate strengthen fair housing protections for rente

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The following was submitted by the Office of Sen. Jason Lewis: State Sen. Jason Lewis

as of Jan. 25, 2025 — Source: Massachusetts Criminal History Systems Board License to carry firearms Firearms identification card Winchester and Marblehead are the focus communities. Peers selected based on comparable population size, demographics and suburban

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joined his colleagues in the Massachusetts Senate to pass legislation that protects residents from discrimination in the housing market as the Trump administration abandons its enforcement of the federal Fair Housing Act. Illegal discrimination continues

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Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

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FEATURES

‘Chicago: Teen Edition’ dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents “Chicago: Teen Edition,” a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS
March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents ‘Syldason: You Are Welcome Here’

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

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